

Application No.: 10/700,518
Art Unit: 2621

Agenda for Interview
Attorney Docket No.: 032085

PROPOSED AMENDED INDEPENDENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus which sequentially reproduces a plurality of screens of still image signals recorded in a recording medium, comprising:

a timer for measuring an image reproducing period;

a first reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that a time of said timer elapses;

a second reproducer for reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium, without waiting for a lapse of said timer, every time that an image renewal instruction is issued;

a restarter for restarting said timer every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced;

a changer for changing the image reproducing period in response to a period changing instruction; and

an issuer for issuing the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction,

wherein the issuer determines whether the period changing instruction is for shortening the image reproducing period or the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period, and

wherein said issuer issues the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for shortening the image reproducing period and said issuer stops issuing the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period, such that only in a case of shortening the image reproducing period, the image is renewed in response to the issue of the image renewal instruction.

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6. (Currently amended) An image processing method which sequentially reproduces a plurality of screens of still image signals recorded in a recording medium, comprising steps of:

(a) reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium every time that a time of a timer for measuring an image reproducing period elapses;

(b) reproducing one screen of still image signal from said recording medium, without waiting for a lapse of said timer, every time that an image renewal instruction is issued;

(c) restarting said timer every time that said one screen of still image signal is reproduced;

(d) changing the image reproducing period in response to a period changing instruction;

and

(e) issuing, using a microcomputer, the image renewal instruction in response to the period changing instruction,

wherein said step of issuing the image renewal, using the microcomputer, determines whether the period changing instruction is for shortening the image reproducing period or the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period, and

wherein said step of issuing the image renewal instruction issues, using the microcomputer, the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for shortening the image reproducing period and stops issuing the image renewal instruction when the period changing instruction is for extending the image reproducing period, such that only in a case of shortening the image reproducing period, the image is renewed in response to the issue of the image renewal instruction.

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7. (Currently amended) An image reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a reproducer which sequentially reproduces an image signal of a plurality of frames recorded in a recording medium by sequentially renewing the plurality of frames at a renewing timing according to a predetermined renewing interval; and in accordance with an arbitrary time series;

~~a frame renewer which renews frames to be sequentially reproduced by said reproducer at renewing timings according to a predetermined renewing interval; and~~

a changer which changes said renewing interval to be shortened or prolonged in response to a predetermined operation when said predetermined operation is made during a sequential reproducing by said reproducer,

wherein the changer determines whether the predetermined operation is for shortening the renewing interval or the predetermined operation is for prolonging the renewing interval, and

wherein said ~~reproducer~~ frame renewer includes a first renewer which immediately renews, when an operation for shortening said renewing interval is made by said changer, a frame currently being reproduced at an accepting timing of the operation to a frame to be subsequently reproduced, and a second frame renewer which renews, when an operation for prolonging said renewing interval is made by said changer, a frame currently being reproduced at an accepting timing of the operation to a frame to be subsequently reproduced with a renewing timing such that the renewing interval between the frame currently being reproduced and a frame to be subsequently reproduced becomes equal to the renewing interval changed by said changer.